REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-43, 45-47, 49-51, 53-55 and 57 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 41 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. New claim 57 has been added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 9-11, 12, 22-24, 25, 28-33, 41-43, 45-47, 49-51 and 53-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Duursma et al (U.S. Patent 2002/0103884) in view of Levergood et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,780). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention is directed to an information distributing method in which displayed information A (the first information or primary information) contains a link to quoted information B (the second information) (see Fig. 15A).

As shown in Figs. 15A-C and described in the specification, document A includes a link for document B. When document B is

requested, such as by clicking on the link to document B, server B determines whether or not document B is permitted to be transferred to the client. If transfer is permitted, document B is transferred from server B (see Fig. 15B). If not, an indication of this denial is indicated as shown by reference numeral 13 in Fig. 15C.

In other words, it is determined whether or not the link to document is permitted to be transferred to the information user unit 120 (also referred to as information display unit) in response to an information request from the information user unit 120. This determination is based upon the identifying information (Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)) included in the information request and information contained in a quotation allowance database (see Fig. 7). It should be understood that the present invention does not merely relate to simple access control in which requested information is obtained with a browser program by inputting a (URI) to a system. Such type of simple access is shown, for example, by steps 201-203 in Fig. 3. On the other hand, the presently claimed invention includes steps 201-209 of Fig. 3.

More precisely, as shown in Fig. 3, an information user unit 120 issues a request for primary information as shown in step 201. In response, the primary information is transmitted

and displayed (steps 202 and 203). At step 204, program codes are requested by the information user unit 120. In response, a second information providing resource unit 110 sends program codes 4 (JAVA applet) to information user unit 120. At step 206, information user unit 120 activates the program codes that are received. The program codes then acquire a URI of the first information and issue an information request 5 with a password included in the program codes to the second information providing resource unit 110 (steps 207 and 208). Upon receiving the information request 5 for the quoted information, the common gateway interface (CGI) program of the second information providing resource unit 110 verifies the password (step 220 in Fig. 6) by checking whether or not the password matches a password stored in a password database (see Fig. 2). Then, in step 221 the program determines whether or not an identifier of the requested information exists by checking a quotation allowance database that stores the identifier (ID) of the second (quoted) information and a URI of first information allowed for quotation (see Fig. 7). Only after these steps are successfully passed does the program send the second (quoted) information to the information user unit 120 (step 223). Otherwise, if these steps are not successfully passed, the program sends information indicating

that the transmission of the second information is not permitted (step 224 in Fig. 6).

Therefore, according to the present invention, two separate requests are made. First, a program request is sent and then an information request is sent to a second information providing resource unit 110 from the information user unit 120. Upon receiving the information request, the second information providing resource unit 110 determines whether or not it is permitted to transmit the second information to the information user unit 120 based upon identifying information (URI) included in the second request and information from a quotation allowance database (Fig. 7).

None of the cited references disclose the reception of two separate requests nor disclose that the URI and the quotation allowance database are used to determine whether or not the information request for quoting second information is permitted to be received by the information user unit 120.

Instead, the prior art references merely disclose that the URI is used to specify a website or identify particular information for transfer of a document or information from the website. None of the cited references disclose or suggest the two steps of request that are made for quoted information, nor the two step determination of whether or not the second

request is permitted to be received by the information user unit 120 based upon the identifying information (URI) included in the request and information from a quotation allowance database (Fig. 7). The quotation allowance database is a correspondence table which indicates a correspondence between an identifier code (ID) specifying second information for which quotation is allowed in the second information providing resource and an identifier of first information (URI) in the first information providing source.

Duursma et al merely disclose a client-server network system. Duursma et al's system merely determines which application programs hosted by application servers are available for use by a user of a client node based upon information related to the user of the application and the hardware required to run the application. A host server receives application-related information corresponding to application programs hosted by a plurality of servers in a network. User credentials are received from the client's system. Whether each hosted application program is available to the client's system for execution is determined based upon user credentials and the received application-related information. Information is transmitted from the host server to the client's system to indicate each hosted application

that is available to the client's system for execution. The application-related information can be a variety of information including, as mentioned by the Examiner, an address of the server hosting that application, the application name and the user or groups of users who are authorized to use that application. Furthermore, the application-related information can also include the minimum capabilities required of the client node for establishing a connection to run the application. Therefore, according to Duursma et al, whether each hosted application is available to a user for execution is determined based upon user credentials and the received application-related information.

Furthermore, Duursma et al are not concerned with displayed information that contains a link to an application program or document. As such, Duursma et al are completely silent with respect to a first document containing a link to a second document. Thus, it is understandable that Duursma et al are completely silent as to the access control to such a linked application or document.

Duursma et al certainly do not disclose the reception of two separate requests nor disclose that the URI and the quotation allowance database are used to determine whether or not transmission of the linked document is permitted. Duursma

et al merely show a simple application access control in which an application program is not linked with another application or document. Furthermore, Duursma et al disclose determining whether or not this non-linked application program should be available based upon the information related to the user of the application and capabilities of the client node.

The deficiencies in Duursma et al are not overcome by resort to Levergood et al. Levergood et al disclose that when a user selects a link that is directed to an access-controlled file, the server subjects the request to a secondary server which determines whether the client has authorization or a valid account. Upon verification, the user is provided with a session identification (SID) which allows the user to access the requested file as well as any other files within the protected domain. When a user sends a request (first information) to the server, if the user is an authorized user, the authentication server issues an SID to the user. For a new client, the authentication server may open a new account and issue an SID thereafter. A valid SID typically includes a user identifier, an accessible domain, a key identifier, an expiration time such as date, the IP address of the user's computer, and an unforgettable digital signature such as a cryptographic hash of all of the other items in the SID

encrypted with a secret key (see column 3, lines 21-43). The SID does not include the URI. The authentication server then forwards a new request consisting of the original Uniform Resource Locator (URL) appended with the SID to the client in a REDIRECT. The modified request formed by the new URL is automatically forwarded by the client browser to the content server. The content server receives this information and validates the SID. If the SID is validated, the contents server sends the requested document for display.

Therefore, it is clear that Levergood et al also fail to disclose how to access a second document or application contained in a link of a first document. Levergood et al also do not disclose how to specifically control access to the linked document or application. Therefore, it follows that Levergood et al neither disclose nor suggest the reception of two separate requests nor that the URI and the quotation allowance database are used for determining whether or not the transmission of the linked document or application is permitted. In Levergood et al, the URI of the user requesting an access controlled file is not contained in the request to the server.

Second Request for Interview

Applicants previously requested that the Examiner conduct an interview with the undersigned prior to issuing a subsequent office action, but the undersigned was not contacted by the Examiner. As such, the Examiner is hereby requested to contact the undersigned by telephone to arrange an appropriate time for the interview.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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